

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-53. (canceled)

54. (currently amended) A device for insertion in a human or animal body or body cavity, said device having an inflatable and expandable means containing a solution ~~of about pH 1-5.5 which comprises~~ comprising at least one component capable of releasing at least one low molecular antimicrobial compound (LMAC), said LMAC having a molecular weight equal to or less than 250U and is capable of permeating into the adjacent tissue or body cavity and said at least one component releases said LMAC upon acidification.

55. (previously presented) The device of claim 54, wherein the LMAC is released when said at least one component is contacted with a second component.

56. (previously presented) The device of claim 55, wherein said at least one component is inorganic nitrite.

57. (previously presented) The device of claim 55, wherein said second component is ascorbic acid or acetic acid.

58. (previously presented) The device of claim 55, wherein said at least one component is inorganic nitrite and said second component is ascorbic acid or acetic acid.

59. (previously presented) The device of claim 55, wherein said contact is accomplished through the introduction of a liquid to said means and said liquid being selected from the group consisting of water, saline or any physiological buffer.

60. (previously presented) The device of claim 54, wherein said device is a catheter for insertion into the urinary tract of said human or animal body and said inflatable and expandable means comprise an inflatable cuff.

61. (previously presented) The device of claim 60, wherein said cuff when inserted into the urinary tract is situated in the urinary bladder.

62. (previously presented) The device of claim 54, wherein said device is an intratracheal tube.

63. (previously presented) The device of claim 54, wherein said device is a gastric tube.

64. (previously presented) The device of claim 54, wherein said LMAC is a reactive nitrogen intermediate, a reactive oxygen intermediate or a combination of these two.

65. (previously presented) The device of claim 54, wherein the LMAC is selected from the group consisting of nitric oxide (NO), NO₂, N₂O₃, N₂O₄, HNO₃, HNO₂, NO⁺, NO⁻, O²⁻, O₃, singlet oxygen, H₂O₂, OONO-, HOONO, NOCl, NOSC₃N, NO thiocyanate, an OH radical and HOCl.

66. (previously presented) The device of claim 54, wherein said LMAC is in a gaseous state at body temperature.

67. (previously presented) The device of claim 54, having a concentration of one or more metal ions in the contents of the inflatable and expandable means or in the material or on the surface of said device, said concentration being sufficient to increase the antimicrobial effect.

68. (Withdrawn) A device for insertion in a human or animal body or a body cavity, said device having an inflatable and expandable means, wherein said inflatable and expandable

means is impermeable to water and contains inorganic nitrite and an acid.

69. (Withdrawn) A device of claim 68, wherein said inflatable and expandable means contains sodium nitrite and ascorbic acid.

70. (Withdrawn) A device of claim 68, wherein said device is a catheter.

71. (Withdrawn) A device for insertion in a human or animal body or a body cavity, said device having an inflatable and expandable means containing a solution comprising inorganic nitrite and an acid, wherein said solution produces at least one low molecular antimicrobial compound (LMAC) which has an antimicrobial effect outside of the device.

72. (Withdrawn) A device of claim 71, wherein said inflatable and expandable means contains sodium nitrite and ascorbic acid.

73. (Withdrawn) A device of claim 71, wherein said device is a catheter.

74. (Withdrawn) A device of claim 71, wherein said LMAC has an antimicrobial effect on the outer surface of the device.

75. (Withdrawn) A device of claim 71, wherein said solution is of pH 2-4.

76. (Withdrawn) A device for insertion in a human or animal body or a body cavity, said device having an inflatable and expandable means, wherein said inflatable and expandable means comprises at least one component capable of releasing at least one low molecular antimicrobial compound (LMAC) capable of permeating into the adjacent tissue or body cavity, and said at least one component releases said LMAC at a concentration of at least about 10000 parts per billion within about 10 minutes of acidification as measured by rapid-response chemiluminescence analysis of the headspace of a closed flask containing said device, wherein said flask is flushed with NO-free air via an inlet at a rate of 4.5 L/min.

77. (Withdrawn) A device of claim 76, wherein said inflatable and expandable means contains sodium nitrite and ascorbic acid.

78. (Withdrawn) A device of claim 76, wherein said device is a catheter.

79. (Withdrawn) A method for treating, preventing or alleviating a nosocomial infection in a human or animal having an invasive medical device inserted into the body, comprising inserting an invasive medical device into the body of the human or animal, wherein said invasive medical device has an inflatable and expandable means containing a solution of pH 2-4 which comprises inorganic nitrite and an acid.

80. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 79, wherein the inorganic nitrite is sodium nitrite.

81. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 79, wherein the acid is ascorbic acid.

82. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 79, wherein the nosocomial infection is a bacterial infection.

83. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 79, wherein the nosocomial infection is a viral infection.

84. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 79, wherein the invasive medical device is a catheter.

85. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 79, wherein the invasive medical device is an intratracheal tube.

86. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 79, wherein the invasive medical device is a gastric tube.

87. (Withdrawn) A kit comprising an invasive medical device having an inflatable cuff and a syringe suitable for inflating said cuff, said syringe comprising the necessary components for the release of at least one low molecular antimicrobial compound (LMAC) after administration of said components into said inflatable cuff of said device.

88. (Withdrawn) The kit of claim 87, wherein the device is a urinary catheter.

89. (Withdrawn) The kit of claim 87, wherein the device is an intratracheal tube.

90. (Withdrawn) The kit of 87, wherein the device is a gastric tube.

91. (Withdrawn) The kit of claim 87, wherein said necessary components are present as powders that release said LMAC upon combination with a liquid such as water, saline or any physiological buffer.

92. (Withdrawn) The kit of claim 87, wherein said necessary components are present as separate solutions that are combined prior to administration or simultaneously with the inflation of said cuff.

93. (Withdrawn) The kit of claim 87, wherein said necessary components are inorganic nitrite and an acid.

94. (Withdrawn) The kit of claim 87, wherein said necessary components are sodium nitrite and ascorbic acid.

95. (previously presented) The device of claim 54, wherein said device is a vascular catheter.

96. (previously presented) The device of claim 54, wherein said device is a vascular catheter port.

97. (previously presented) The device of claim 54, wherein said device is a wound drain tube.

98. (Withdrawn) The kit of claim 87, wherein the device is a vascular catheter.

99. (Withdrawn) The kit of claim 87, wherein the device is a vascular catheter port.

100. (Withdrawn) The kit of claim 87, wherein the device is a wound drain tube.

101. (new) A medical device for insertion into a human or animal body or body cavity, comprising:

a first end adapted to connect to a fluid collection device;

a second end adapted to insert into a human or animal body or body cavity;

an inflatable and expandable cuff surrounding the second end;

at least one component retained within the cuff, the at least one component capable of releasing at least one low molecular antimicrobial compound (LMAC) upon acidification, wherein,

the LMAC has a molecular weight equal to or less than 250 U and is capable of permeating the cuff to the adjacent tissue or body cavity and exerting an antimicrobial effect.